Food (1948) Department.

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Dated 10th November 1948

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[Despatch Abstract.]

COMMITTEES - Provincial - Food Advisory Committee - Third meeting in October 1948 - Agenda and Proceedings - Paper: Recorded.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

D.O.No.44559-F/48-

FOOD SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Dated Fort St. George the
20th October 1948.

Dear Mr. Lepper,

Provincial Food Advisory Committee - Meeting on 27th October 1948 - Agenda and notes on subjects in the agenda - Printing of.

I am desired to send herewith a note for the meeting of the Provincial Food Advisory Committee to be held on 27th October 1948 and to request that 200 copies of the same may be printed and supplied to the Government immediately. No proofs of the printed matter need be sent but the matter should be carefully compared before final copies are struck. The clean copies may kindly be sent by a special messenger so as to reach the Government before 12 Noon on 21st October 1948.

Yours Sincerely,

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To

A. Lepper, Esq.,
Superintendent,
Government Press,
Mint Buildings, M a d r a s.

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A meeting of the Provincial Food Advisory Committee was held at the Council Chamber at 11 A.M. on 27th October 1948, the Hon'ble Dr. T.S. Rajan, Minister for Food presided. The following gentlemen were present:

1. The Hon'ble Sri O-P. Ramaswami Reddiar, Premier.
2. The Hon'ble Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, Minister for Food.
3. The Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon, Minister for Agriculture
4. Sri Rao Bahadur M.A. Kuttalalingam Pillai, B.A., Secretary to Government, Food Department.
5. V.S. Hejmadi, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner of Civil Supplies
6. R.M. Sundaram Esq., I.C.S., Director of Agriculture
7. Mr. Mahboob Mian (Representative of the Regional Food Commissioner, Southern Region, Madras)
8. Mr. K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.
9. Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao, M.L.C.
10. Sri Adusumilli Gopalakrishniah, M.L.C.
11. Sri B. Ramachandra Reddy
12. Sri G. Venkatasubbiah
13. Sri V.C. Velliangiri Gownder
14. Sri G. Brahmayya
15. Sri V. Nadimuthu Pillai
16. Sri V.S. Thyagaraja Mudaliyar
17. Sri Rao Bahadur B.P. Sesha Reddi
18. Sri G. Vaghesam Pillai
19. Sri R. Venkata Subba Reddiar
20. Sri K.V. Srinivasa Ayyangar
21. Sri L.N. Paramasivam Pillai
22. Sri N. Gopala Ayyar
23. Sri K.B. Jinaraja Hegde.
24. Sri A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, M.L.A.
25. Sri C.R. Gunniah Chetty
26. Sri K.A. Nachiappa Gownder, M.L.A.
27. Sri V.I. Muniswami Pillai, M.L.A.

p.t.o.

28. Sri P. Kumaran
29. Sri A.S. Kuppuswami Ayyar
30. Sri S.R.M. Sankaralingam Pillai

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajan addressing the Committee said:

"Friends, I thank you all very much for having come over to help us perhaps at a very critical time. Your advice and your suggestions are very necessary to us because as you know, the Government of India has decided to launch on a campaign of compulsory procurement and compulsory rationing. It is not good on our part to discuss on the merits of their decision or intention but their final decisions are here. Myself and the Hon'ble Premier were present at the Food Conference at Delhi and we did take part in the deliberations of the sub-committee and in so far as this has come out as the official decision of the Government of India, we are also equally responsible. This is the first thing I want to tell you. The second thing you might like to ask is whether we did not represent the difficulties in going back on decontrol and coming to control. We did our part but then it was an informal conference where discussion was not open to press. We had to be satisfied with what representation we could make on behalf of this Province and abide by the final decision. And the final decisions are those that have been placed before you in the printed communication that has been sent to all the members. You will know therefrom that we have got a very heavy task before us and the Press Statement of the Director-General of Food of the Government of India gives us a rather gloomy picture. He does not give a very encouraging report and he says that these two or three months will be the most difficult months for us in regard to the food situation in the whole of India. Now we meet here under rather not very happy circumstances because I must remind you here and now, that we are a deficit province, deficit to the tune of nearly five to six lakhs of tons. The Government of India came to our relief last year and in the current year and they have to the best of their capacity tried to meet our requirements and they are still owing us something more in regard to our own requirements and they have promised nearly 1,30,000 tons and we expect to receive the consignments from them. According to the figures, I have given, you will note that 4 lakhs and odd tons have been made available according to the present figures - not according to the actual quantity on hand, but the quantity we expect to receive before the end of December. That quantity according to the present rations will take us right through to the end of this year and perhaps leave a buffer stock for about a month in the next. So in fact we might presume that our supplies and our stock position is such as to carry us through, not very happily I admit, but at least in giving us something to tide over the present difficulties till our next harvest commences. We expect that our procurement would be fairly satisfactory by the end of December, at least by the end of January 1949. And according to the report before you, we plan to bring complete control and enforcement by procuring the available paddy in the next harvest which will take us on to March and April next. According to the Government of India's instructions, we have agreed to bring full control and procurement back again, as it was before we decontrolled, by 1st October 1949. That will complete our year. Over and abovewhat I have suggested, effect of control over production has been brought to our notice by the departments concerned. We are not unaware of it. On one side, you have got to intensify the G.M.F. Campaign in operation which is expected to last over five years, before we are able to reach our target of 5 lakh tons which is our deficit. In between, we cannot allow people to starve. We have got to give them food and to that extent the Government of India's help with regard to meeting our deficit has become necessary. It may be argued that we do not want the controls at all. We ...

We are perfectly free to say so as an independent province which has got independent resources of its own. We might say to the Government of India, 'Well, we do not want your help. We have got our own food and requirements. You need not bother about us. Control or decontrol, it is our own business.' We might say that only when our food position is so satisfactory that we could carry on without the help from the rest of India or even from overseas. But in making a statement of that sort, we must first of all remember that we are a deficit province. Results of our Grow More Food Campaign will not be realised this year, perhaps the next year or even the year after the next. Therefore, the next two or three years we have got to get on and commandeer as much as is necessary for our existence. And if we do that, the Government of India's help and our co-ordination with the efforts of the Government of India becomes absolutely necessary. Because if you want to import produce for our consumption from provinces other than our own we have got to get the Government of India to give us help and order the movement and if over and above that we want food from outside the country, even then the financial help and the requisitioning and all becomes absolutely necessary and Government of India has got to come to our help. Realising these factors in the course of the discussions I would like the members to give us such advice as would enable us to get the maximum procurement that is possible in our province. Because when we apply to the Government of India for help we should have proved our bonafides to the extent that we have been able to procure as much as possible in this province. Therefore the obligation on us to procure the maximum is very evident. I am addressing a set of producers here this morning and most of you are good producers and have time and again come to the help of this Government with regard to the food situation by freely surrendering a good deal of excess grains at controlled price and I am thankful for the help you have given. But in placing before you this introduction of control again after a period of decontrol, I have a diffidence because the food situation in this province has not been so desperately bad after decontrol but the fact remains that our decontrol could not prevent that inflation of prices which has come to stay and which is beyond the reach of the poor man to procure. The real duty of the Government of the province is particularly in food matters first and to see to it that poor people get such food as is necessary and control prices at which they would get. But with regard to decontrol, I must confess, and you will also know it, that our prices have soared far beyond the reach of the average man in the street. Therefore we should necessarily seek help and in seeking the help you have got to abide by the conditions imposed by the Government of India, and that is our maximum procurement.

Well, now we come to the question of prices, because, after all, as producers you are very much interested in the prices that are going to be offered. The first question you will naturally ask is whether the price you are given is one consistent with the cost of production. That is really the anxiety of the mirasdar in so far as prices are concerned. We have, as you know, given already a 25 per cent increase in December and have given an increment of Rs.2/- per maund in our last resolution and the Government of India to-day says that we are allowed to increase the prices up to 25%. But that 25% has already been covered by the price we offered in last December. Therefore the question for producers is that this: Is that sufficient enough or is

it a fair price with regard to the cost of production ? That is the question which all of you might ask. Well, I feel diffident to say, that is enough because being a producer myself I know what production costs and there I would not say that the 25% increase suffices or at least covers the cost of production. It does not. But then/Government of India says that you should have 25 per cent and nothing more. Unfortunately, we have already given 25%. The question is what further we could give if we want to get the goodwill of the mirasdars; not only their good will but their capacity to go on engaging in this production not only now, year after year, in the years to come. It is only from that point of view I am looking at the price we are offering. And we feel that an increase has got to be recommended to the Government of India with all the strength that we are capable of and with all the arguments we could put forth to make them accept an increase. We are now in correspondence with the Government of India with regard to the final prices that we could offer, because the Government of India has got an interest in the matter of prices and their control. Their capacity to import, their capacity to procure from beyond our province all depend upon the prices. It is our duty to tell them what should be the maximum that we could recommend to the Government of India. These are the factors that caught us with regard to the control of prices. And at the same time we have got to feel that to improve the difficult food situation we have necessarily to go on producing the maximum and add to our resources as our J.M.F. develops and yields the result that we expect it to yield. But it will take another two or three years. Both the departments of Agriculture and Food are aware that any strain put upon the producers in regard to prices will only lead to shrinkage in production and shrinkage in production is a factor which any Government has got to consider with regard to the fixation of prices. Therefore we have taken all these points into consideration. Suggestions of Development, Agriculture and Food Departments have been taken and I have made some recommendation to the Government of India. It is for India to consider our proposal and give us permission to fix the price which we have recommended. But I am afraid even the prices which we have recommended are not such as to enthuse the producer. But we producers should consider that we should not expect anything more than our minimum cost of production to be covered by price and for the next 2 or 3 years we must make up our mind not to make undue profit. I must say that decontrol has given great pleasure to the producers because it has put up prices. Last year producers have derived a good income out of decontrol. But it cannot be allowed to continue when the soaring of prices is impossible to control and soaring prie I must confess that the Food Department has not been able to control the soaring prices. When there is enough money in the hands of the people and when they are prepared to pay more and buy foodgrains, such a situation cannot be controlled. But as agriculturists we should see to it that we will have to distribute as much surplus as we could conveniently spare to the Government at minimum cost. Therefore, don't grouse about the prices that the Government of India may allow. If you increase the price of the foodgrains, this will again react upon the prices of all other commodities; but after all prices of commodities vary essentially with the price of fundamental food grains. In the interest of both the Provincial and Central Governments, prices must be kept down as far as possible particularly when we are fighting inflation. The Central Government have adopted this procedure of control not as much for food as for control with regard to inflation of money market. You may say there are other ways of doing it. Why not freeze moneys in the bank ? This, the Government



of ....

of India are aware of. I am sure they will adopt and the appropriate step. If they do not take such drastic procedure, it is because they find it difficult to do it atonce. Financiers and banks are so essential with all their surplus capital. Their goodwill is necessary. With war waging in the north draining all our resources and studying the international situation, Government of India cannot go dir and directly tap capital straightaway at source. Government of India themselves know that there is some surplus cash and there is a certain amount of inflation and to the extent it prevails, it also encourages black-marketing. Inflation m naturally, and particularly on a matter like foodgrain, gives rise to black-marketing.

Please remember the limitation to which Government of India could go and in the purpose of their having this food control as one of the measures for fighting inflation. This is what they have adopted. And as far as this province is concerned, I do not say decontrol has been a perfect success. In deficit districts it has been welcomed very much. In districts like the Rayalaseema, Coimbatore, Salem and parts of North and South Arcot, it has certainly given a feeling of relief because producers felt happy in a little more money coming to them.

I am not aware of the terrible things that might happen by introduction of procurement; but the question is what could we do ? Unfortunately, big producers are only a handful and the number of small producers are numerous. It may not affect big producers but it does affect the small producers, people who own 1, 2 or 3 acres and if Government introduces control, probably they will be deprived of their very existence and therefore it is there that food procurement becomes unpopular. And if I want all the district and taluk food committees to be revived, it is because to get as much of public co-operation in the scheme of things and to lay before the public all that the Government want to do and take their advice. Public opinion on these matters is essential and as a Government responsible to the people, we want to keep a close and watch on public opinion. We as a Government are prepared to go and appeal to all and sundry to help. But it does not come as we like. You know the amount of high prices which the Government of India was obliged to pay wit with regard to foodgrains from Argentina and other xxx cojntries where unscrupulous prices are quoted by those Governments. But we had to buy. Recently I read in the papers that there is a bumper crop in America and other places and it is likely that prices will naturally come down. But that is for the Government of India to think of. My business is to take your opinion and carry my plans to the Government of India and insist on their coming to our help. Last year, unlike the previous year, the Government of India have been very generous and have quickly responded to the food demands of the province. I hope they will continue to do so in this year and perhaps in the years to come. But we must put forth our best efforts. Otherwise, the trouble will be such that we may not tide over the situation. Government buys foodgrains from you to be distributed to the poor man and if you put up the prices, the Government has to got to pay more money and that money is the poor man's money. You keep this in your mind and give some helpful suggestions, and help me in this very paidful painful task as food Minister of this Province."

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajan then read a letter from Sri Nachiappa Gownder forwarding some resolutions. As it is not the practice of this Committee to pass any resolution, he commended the resolutions to the members so that they might cover the points therein in the course of their discussion.

p.t.o.

Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar:

One point made clear by the H.M. (Food) is that control is there and we cannot avoid it in accordance with the All-India policy. The second point that has been made clear by him is, Government are unable to control the soaring prices, with all the resources at their hands and so long as the poorer class people cannot possibly pay these prices some method must be invented by which the poorest consumer may have something within his reach for the purpose of his food. And the third, the only other possible method, is having some kind of control brought in so as to square in with the All-India policy itself. These are, there outstanding facts which the Hon'ble Minister has now told us. Along with this, the question of questions on which apparently the Food Minister wants us to give advice is about prices. Now at the time when we wanted even decontrol, when there was a persistent demand for decontrol, the prices were such that even with the controlled prices, the paddy was not going round to meet the requirements. There was therefore a blackmarket. And the price at that time, the blackmarket price, was only about Rs.15/- per bag of 72 measures - at the time when control was removed, I am telling from experience of my district, very probably with a little more or less it might be the same in other districts. They tell me, controlled price per bag was Rs.12/-. Immediately control was removed, it showed a tendency to fall. Madura is a district with a small margin of deficit and that deficit is made up by import from Tanjore or from other places. Within three or four days, the prices were falling from the blackmarket price of Rs.15/- and tried to approximate itself to a little above the controlled price. But soon, the stock holders found that the Government with a view to maintain a stock because of a fear of famine, refused to release Tanjore rice for ordinary merchants and that only in case their own requirements to build up a stock was satisfied, that Government was prepared to release. The result was the actual inflow of paddy has been stopped. Another peculiarity with which we were faced was, the ordinary merchants were wiped out during control days when a system of licensing of wholesalers and retailers was in force. Quality of paddy procured and sold deteriorated. The control was removed at a time when there were no efficient means to put in supply which alone would be sufficient to prevent rise of prices.

Explaining how blackmarketing flourish, he suggested, that for elimination of the blackmarket, the price of rice should be so raised as would give the producer some rate, midway between the present Government and blackmarket rates. He suggested a '3 measures of paddy a rupee' rate which will satisfy the people of his place. He thus urged that the producers' price should at least be Rs.10/- per maund of paddy.

He then referred to a number of petitions received by him urging him to recommend a fair price for the poor peasant eliminating the undue profits to a set of intermediaries, middle-men, ration shop-keepers etc. and introducing controls over those essential commodities as well, as in their opinion, a control on food alone would not mitigate their hardships. He also cited instances of difficulties encountered by poor ryots (a) in procuring agricultural implements, manure, bandipattahs etc., due to official red-tapism, (b) in dealing with corrupt village officials who generally harass them in the issue of ration cards, (c) due to dishonest relief shop-keepers who resorted to false entries in their books and indulging in blackmarketing and profiteering.

In fine, he emphasised the necessity for (1) enforcement of control, strictly and thoroughly in all its aspects, putting only honest and strict men in charge, (2) urging the

government.....

Government of India to fix the price of paddy at Rs.10/- per maund (3) taking drastic steps against adulteration of foodstuffs; and (4) punishing blackmarketeers and profiteers in a severe manner.

Mr. Jinaraja Rao Hegde:

Deploring the fate of the agriculturists, he said that for the sake of 25 per cent of the non-producer population, the 75 per cent of the producer class was to be harassed by re-introduction of intensive procurement and rationing. According to him, existence of blackmarket connotes inadequacy of rations allowed by Government and the only way to eradicate black-market was to increase the rations to 12 ounces.

Speaking about payment of increased prices to producer, he said that better price will increase production. Quoting the Gregory Committee report, he emphasized that all requirements of agriculturists should be first controlled and then the foodstuffs. He complained that preference was given to Madras City in the supply of foodgrains quoting the instance of the consignment of 1500 bags of semolina. He wanted that children below 2 years must be given rations as in other provinces. He deprecated the transfer of stocks from one district to another. (Here, the necessity for such transfers was explained by the Food Secretary). He urged the necessity for employing an efficient machinery to prevent smuggling to North Kanara and other places.

The Commissioner of Civil Supplies promised to look into this and send some semolina to S. Kanara. He will have to do it now as Semolina has now been declared a rationed article.

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4-11-48

Mr. Velliangiri Gownder:

Indicating the important bearing that price factor has on production, he said that price should be so fixed as to leave a fair margin on profit to the producer to meet his increasing needs. He demanded different treatment for the surplus and deficit districts and said that expenditure varied with the prevailing labour conditions, source of water supply etc., at the producing centre. He wanted that the levy system should be introduced in a place of the intensive procurement system, which in his opinion, would do great havoc. He wanted that the working of Grow More Food Campaign should be guided by the advice of the non-officials also. He stressed the need for short-term plans.

t was explained at the conference how the levy system was not successful

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4-11-48.

Better irrigation facilities, completion of the irrigation scheme for Coimbatore and Salem planned 20 years ago, supply of sufficient manure, enforcement of the Kudimaramath Act, procurement of the surplus with producers immediately after harvest, better supervision of the work of Chowkidars and ration shops and the convening of the meeting of the Provincial Food Advisory Committee often, the next one being in December or so, were the other points urged by him.

A.S. Kuppuswamy Ayyar (Tinnevelly):

He first gave an outline of the main features of the policy of the Central Government and the steps taken by the Provincial Government so far. In order to mitigate the difficulties of the consumer in obtaining his requirements of foodgrains from the ration ~~xhx~~ shops, he offered the following suggestions:-

No Village Committees

Instructions being issued.

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4-11-48.

(1) The consumers should be given adequate representation in the village committees to be formed. If any ration shop-keeper was not able to command the public confidence, he ought to go normally. Any grievance by such representatives of card-holders (consumers) should be properly redressed by the departmental authorities.

p.t.o.

(2). The Government Order of September 1946 should be implemented more effectively and Consumers Co-operative Societies should be appointed as agents for procurement and distribution, unless they are found to be unfit.

We have said that existing agencies should not be disturbed; but other things being equal Co-operative Societies should be preferred. We cannot go back to the 1946 Order because it was found unsuitable later.

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4-11-48

(3) The number of Consumers' Co-operative Societies should be increased to cater to the needs of the innumerable number of villages. He suggested that if de-control is to succeed, Government should see that Consumers Societies function throughout the Province.

(4) The Government should enforce the laws strictly to deal with offences against adulteration and short measurement.

(5) Consumers should have the option to purchase fortnightly or monthly requirements from ration shops

This cannot be allowed when our stocks are meagre

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4-11-48

(6) Co-operative organisations should be asked to undertake hand-pounding of paddy

Firka Devpt. is considering the matter.

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4-11-48

(7) Levy of procurement should be introduced

This will notwork well.

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4-11-48

(8) In case the intensive procurement is to be enforced, it should start at the very commencement of the harvest season.

Of course, that is what is being done

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4-11-48

(9) In fairness to the consumer and to the producer the present level of prices for paddy should be raised to Rs.10/- per maund.

Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao, M.L.C.:

He suggested that the introduction of the levy system of procurement, as in his opinion, it was the best method to effectively procure all the surplus available with every pattadar.

He urged the procurement of millets immediately rather than postponing it till 15th November 1948.

He said this with ref. to the Ceded Dts. It was explained to him that the early crop was a failure.

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He emphasized the necessity to constitute a sub-Committee to go into the question of prices and advise Government whether conditions have changed since their last meeting to need a revision. The price allowed to producers in the previous khariff year should also be allowed to producers in the next khariff year as the reckoning of khariff year is not suitable for South India and not commensurate with the seasons in the South.

The current year's pricesm have since been fixed after taking the approval of the Govt. of India.

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4-11-48

He insisted on the introduction of complete control over groundnut cakes or no control at all, in order to make it available to the ryots when they need.

Mr. V.I. Muniswami Pillai:

He urged that the Government of India subsidy should be allowed to be used in increasing production and for the staff required instead of spending it entirely on the G.M.F. Schemes.

Mr. G. Brahmayya:

Speaking in Telugu, he said that the ryots were reduced to their present plight because they were docile.

When....

When salaries of officials were being increased, he said it was but just that the income of the poor agriculturists, the backbone of the nation, should be increased. Peculiarly enough, even the Popular Government were following the footsteps of their predecessor foreign Government by increasing land cess etc. He demanded repeal of the land tax before introduction of Agricultural Income-tax. Taking the district as a unit, produce of each district should be distributed there itself and the balance ~~xxxx xxxxxx~~ alone exported. Millers should not have the right to trade Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies should be revived.

That is what is usually done. But when districts have temporary surplusses and others are in need, movement from the former cannot be avoided.

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4-11-48.

Speaking about price, he quoted the analogy that khadi in Madras and Punjab cost the same and thus he demanded that price of paddy also should be uniform throughout. He demanded Rs.10/- per maund both in surplus as well as deficit districts, expenditure and cess being similar everywhere. He did not also like differential prices for the different sorts of rice as the difference in quality was due only to the soil on which it is grown, not to the difference in effort, amount of manure required or even the amount of kist paid. Government subsidy should go to improve the soil and should not be frittered away on salaries of procurement officials, etc. He wanted Agricultural Demonstrators to supply seeds at the proper time, tender advice to the ryots and act as 'Pracharaks'. He also wanted that the Collectors, during Jamabandi, should call a conference of ryots, acquaint them with the statistics of production, improved methods of cultivation, and other allied matters.

MR. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI advocated levy system where, according to him, even small pattadars may be tapped. Holding middlemen responsible for inflation in prices, he wanted elimination of middlemen as far as possible. He wanted adequate safeguards against misuse of transport permits, E-form, and black-marketting by relief shops. He was pessimistic about the success of our procurement operations unless a considerably enhanced price is given to the producer. He quoted, as an instance of increase in cost of labour, the weeding charges having gone up to Rs.50/- to Rs.60/-, per acre in his district. Supply of iron and steel to the agriculturists, if necessary by requisitioning, would make procurement drive more successful.

Action being taken separately.

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4-11-48.

MR. NATCHIAPPA GOWNDAR said that insistence on submission of stock statements by illeterate agriculturists, lands them into prosecutions of unfortunate ryots are picked and chosen here and there by the authorities for victimisation. He vehemently argued for introduction of levy system and if it was enforced properly adequate quantity of foodgrains would be forthcoming. Corruption and malpractice by low-paid staff has made the whole scheme troublesome to the public. He wanted local co-operative societies to take up procuring work. The Societies should distribute agricultural implements, manure etc. He was inclined to think that if co-operative societies take up procurement work, quality of rice would be good. He complained against the malpractices of the millers in Tadapalligudem. He was for elimination of the village and taluk food committees. The District Committees would do the work more efficiently, if necessary by going into sub-committees for specified purposes like distribution, procurement, etc. He was for abolition of movement control He stressed the need for a minimum ration of 10 or 12 ounces and introduction of rationing both for village people as well as for townsmen.

MR. A. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA, who spoke in Telugu, was of...

of the opinion that inflation came in through merchants and salaried people and that ryots ~~remained~~ remained in indebted. He wanted supply of all agriculturists' requirements at controlled prices. Surplus districts should have no control or rationing. Only movements outside should be controlled. Ordinarily, ryots never keep stocks. They sell their stocks immediately to merchants. He favoured procurement and condemned levy system as unjust. Uniformity in foodgrains prices, payment of Rs.10/- per maund of paddy, ban on movement of groundnut kernel outside the province were the other points made by him.

MR. VENKATASUBBA REDDIAR (South Arcot) wanted increased price to be given to make procurement easy. Movement of foodgrains often was undesirable. Procurement ~~instructions~~ instructions should be printed in regional languages and distributed. Speaking about decontrol of oil-seeds he complained that for want of reasonable margin, expellers in his district are idle. He mentioned that the relief shops in Tindivanam have not been issuing rations during last week and there is no grain in South Arcot where millet crops failed, and even drinking water was not available.

Report has been called for.

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4-11-48.

MR. V.S. TYGARAJA MUDALIAR favoured introduction of control and rationing again and also the intensive procurement system; but he was of opinion that surplus areas need not have rationing. The saving of expenditure thus made may be usefully utilised for anti-smuggling work. He advocated adoption of Rs.10/- per maund as a reasonable price and wondered why it should not be adopted by India Government when we pay higher prices abroad.

Action being taken.

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4-11-48

MR. PARAMASIVAM PILLAI, LALGUDI recommended payment of higher prices to producer, control of groundnut, entrusting distribution of manure to co-operative societies, procurement of all surplus paddy through co-operative societies, checking up of all leakage, issue of paddy instead of rice in villages as rations and movement of only paddy in excess of the village requirements.

MR. VENKATASUBBAYYA, speaking in Telugu, complained of official re-tapism and wanted a quick moving machinery to meet the requirements of the agriculturists and supplying their needs, wanted free trade and abolition of all controls, establishment of taluk, village, and district committees to work in unison with other peoples organizations; better supply of cart tyres, and payment of Rs.25/- per bag of paddy procured.

MR. VAGHESAM PILLAI wanted that Firka Supply Officers should be authorised to issue milling licences, appointment of Co-operative societies as retailers, and also got certain of his doubts cleared.

MR. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR wanted an all-out effort to increase production.

MR. UPPI SAHIB complained of harassment by procurement officials. He wanted enhancement of rations and that procurement should be from landlords and not from tenants.

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajan thanked the members for their very good and timely advice and appealed to them to give their unstinted support to Government to make the procurement drive successful.

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p.t.o.

Food Department.

Please see the proceedings of the Provincial Food Advisory Committee meeting held on 27th Octoner 1948 at pp.67-83 c.f. As the decisions are mainly regarding the control, procurement and distribution of foodgrains, a copy of the proceedings may be given to A section for action in consultation with B, C and D sections. Suggestions for control of groundnuts have been made ~~Please see side-lined portions on pp.79, 81 and 82 c.f.~~ by one or two members - please see side-lined portions
L.K. on pp.79, 81 and 82 c.f. This question is already engaging the attention of this Government and no separate action is necessary on the suggestion. For orders.

L.K.
2-11-48.

I have noted on the suggestions, wherever necessary in the margin at pp.67 c.f.99 c.f. No further action seems necessary on any of the suggestions. As orally instructed by Secretary, a draft letter to the Government
A of India will be put up by A section conveying the trend of opinion in the Committee about the reintroduction of controls after the Collector's conference is over.

Yes.
** **
6-11-48

F

Please give A-I such a copy of the notes on pp.67-83 c.f. with my marginal remarks and of A above for taking necessary further action.

** **
6-11-48 P.T.O.

Submitted

Orders in the margin have been carried out. No further action seems necessary in this file. The papers may be recorded as a M.S. G.O.

** **

10-11-1948.

G.O.Ms.No.1009 Food, dated 10th November 1948.

COMMITTEES - Provincial - Food Advisory Committee - Third meeting in October 1948 - Agenda and Proceedings - Papers Recorded.

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(True copy)

R. Thiagarajan 1.3.54

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

aj/30-1

2/12/54